Docket No. 294000US Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are canceled and newly added Claims 12-24 are presented for examination. The newly presented claims are added in order to comply with U.S. patent practice by deleting multiple claim dependencies and "use" terminology. Otherwise, the newly presented claims embrace comparable subject matter as the original claims. PCT Rule 66.8(a).

No new matter has been added and the new set of claims do not go beyond the disclosure of the international application as filed. Thus, these new claims do not violate PCT Article 34(2)(b). All of the claims presented can be substantiated by the application as originally filed.

An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is now earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413-2220 (OSMMN 06/04)

James H. Knebel

Registration No. 22,630